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P-Scal, Patrick

Dolnytsin, Anatoli

De Vosjoly, Thiraud

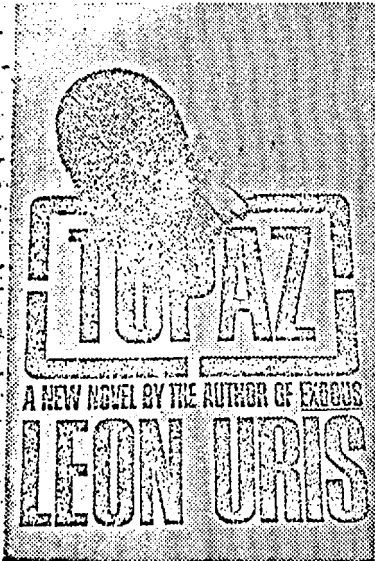
V-Loris, Leon

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Is there a 'Philby' close to de Gaulle?

from PATRICK SEALE and MAUREEN McCONVILLE: Paris, 13 April



The best-selling spy thriller:
fiction or fact?

SENSATIONAL charges that France, too, has a 'Philby'—a Soviet agent still at work in the immediate entourage of President de Gaulle—are about to burst on the French public.

Behind the charges is a brilliant but disgruntled French Intelligence colonel, who has 'defected' to America. Publication of his detailed accusations is believed to be imminent in *Life* magazine.

The main source for the French colonel's accusations is understood to be Anatoli Dolnytsin, a senior Russian KBG officer who fled to the West in 1961, and whose information, it is now known, led to the unmasking of both Kim Philby and Georges

Paques, the NATO spy now in a French jail.

In his year-long 'de-briefing' by the CIA, Dolnytsin claimed to know of the existence in France of yet another Russian spy, close to President de Gaulle and high in the French official hierarchy. This man, if he exists, has not yet been identified.

How the French colonel's allegations, long suppressed by de Gaulle's influence, are at last coming into the open is a devious and intriguing story, linking in an improbable chain of events the French and American secret services with a best-selling American author and the brilliant French satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

This week, for the first time in France, *Le Canard* has dared to name

the absent colonel and hint at some of the more startling claims he is expected to make. He is Colonel Thiraud de Vosjoly, who served in Washington for over 10 years as chief liaison officer between the French secret service—SDECE (*Services de documentation extérieure et de Contre-Espionnage*)—and the CIA. Oddly enough, this is exactly the job Kim Philby did for the British.

Vosjoly, who had excellent Cuban contacts, is believed to have played an important role in securing intelligence for the Americans about the Soviet missile build-up in Cuba in 1962. But Paris disapproved of this too-close liaison with the CIA, and demanded his recall.

Fearing sanctions against him Vosjoly chose to stay in the United

States, thus feeding suspicions that he was in American pay. His latest reported move—to publish his story in *Life*—is seen by some French sources as a CIA propaganda campaign to discredit de Gaulle's régime.

But this is not the case. The American Government is understood to have given assurances to President de Gaulle that it is in no way connected with Colonel de Vosjoly's accusations. On the contrary, the French and American security services have been in close touch on the case, and the recent discreet thaw in Franco-American relations—encouraged by the peace moves over Vietnam—is not expected to suffer from the Vosjoly affair.

Vosjoly's motives in changing sides are in part personal and obscure, and in part spring from a profound disagreement with de

Gaulle's hostility to Nato and American leadership.

One mystery in the colonel's behaviour is that he first chose to publicise his quarrel with his former French masters behind a thin facade of fiction. He told his story in great detail to Leon Uris, the American author of the best-selling 'Exodus,' and Uris, taking considerable liberties with the facts, turned it into a novel with fictitious names hiding real people.

'Topaz,' published by McGraw-Hill last year, is a highly readable political spy story, which still figures on the best-seller lists. In the novel, the head of the KBG's anti-Nato bureau defects to the Americans and reveals the existence in Paris of a Soviet spy ring, calling it a